

Schinnen Safe Rider – Rider Radar

All drivers, regardless to whether driving cars or motorcycles have “Rider Radar”. The important question to you is; Do “YOU” know how to use YOURS? For obvious reasons, knowing how is critically important to safe driving. Three-fourths of all traffic accidents are a result of something entering the vehicle’s path of travel which the driver did not identify; identified too late and could not avoid; or which caused the driver to strike another object in the attempt to avoid the first. Why the accidents occur is usually due to driver inattention and poor Rider Radar techniques. For a safe ride, all drivers should follow and practice these Rider Radar Safe-Ride Tips.

Rider Radar has three lead times that you can use. 2,4 and 12 seconds in front of your vehicle’s path of travel, meaning that you visually scan for hazards to your front that you will reach in these lead times. The distance covered depends on the speed being traveled. The faster the speed, the greater the distance needing to be scanned.

2-Second Following Distance. This is considered the minimum distance while following other vehicles in ideal driving conditions. Less than perfect conditions (e.g. reduced traction or visibility, driver fatigue, etc.) require increasing time and space. The safe rule is to always expect that someone or something will enter your path of travel and be prepared to react. Prepared drivers usually react properly to avoid the accident.

4-Second Immediate Path. Anything that is within 4 seconds of your path is considered immediate because a quick response is required if something should go wrong. Four seconds provides time and space to swerve and/or brake for fixed hazards or for something that may enter your path.

12-Second Anticipated Path. Proper searching technique requires you scan 12 seconds ahead. This allows you to prepare for a situation before it becomes immediate.

Using “Rider Radar” is a continuous process while driving so make sure yours is always switched on.

Schinnen Safe Riders – Drive to Arrive.

United States Army Garrison Schinnen – Installation Safety Office